

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An image observation optical system, comprising:
an image display element;
an eyepiece optical system which introduces an image displayed by said image display element to a center of an eye of an observer without forming an intermediate image, so as to allow the observer to observe said image as a virtual image,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is constructed and arranged to bend an optical axis using reflecting surfaces so as to be compact, said optical axis lying in a plane, and

wherein said eyepiece optical system is symmetrically formed with respect to said plane and includes an optical element having an entrance surface, a plurality of curved reflecting surfaces and an exit surface, at least one of said reflecting surfaces being provided with a volume hologram (HOE);

wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power and at least two HOEs between said image display element and an exit pupil, and, upon an image position F0 displayed at a midpoint being defined on a segment that is an intersection displayed by said plane of symmetry of said eyepiece optical system and an image display surface, said image observation optical system satisfies the following condition:

$$|\phi_y(HOE, F0)/\phi_y(Total)| \leq 0.25$$

where $\phi_y(HOE, F0)$ is a y -direction power of said HOEs at the image position F0, and $\phi_y(Total)$ is a y -direction power of an entire system.

20. (Previously Presented) An image observation optical system, comprising:
an image display element; and
an eyepiece optical system which introduces an image displayed by said image display element to a center of an eye of an observer without forming an intermediate image, so as to allow the observer to observe said image as a virtual image,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is constructed and arranged to bend an optical axis using reflecting surfaces so as to be compact, said optical axis lying in a plane,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is symmetrically formed with respect to said plane and includes an optical element having an entrance surface, a plurality of curved reflecting surfaces and an exit surface, at least one of said reflecting surfaces being provided with a volume hologram (HOE),

wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power, and, upon an image position F0 at a midpoint, an image position Fb at one end point showing a larger chromatic aberration of magnification, and an image position Fa at another end point showing a smaller chromatic aberration of magnification being defined on a segment that is an intersection formed by said plane of symmetry of said eyepiece optical system and an image display surface, said image observation optical system satisfies the following conditions simultaneously:

$$-1 < \phi_y(\text{HOE}, \text{Fa}) / \phi_y(\text{Total}) < 2$$

$$-1 < \phi_y(\text{HOE}, \text{Fb}) / \phi_y(\text{Total}) < 1$$

where $\phi_y(\text{HOE}, \text{Fa})$ is a y -direction power of said HOE at the image position Fa, $\phi_y(\text{HOE}, \text{Fb})$ is a y -direction power of said HOE at the image position Fb, and $\phi_y(\text{Total})$ is a y -direction power of an entire system, and

wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises at least two HOEs between said image display element and an exit pupil, and said image observation optical system satisfies the following condition:

$$|\phi_y(\text{HOE}, \text{F0}) / \phi_y(\text{Total})| \leq 0.25$$

where $\phi_y(\text{HOE}, \text{F0})$ is a y -direction power of said HOEs at the image position F0, and $\phi_y(\text{Total})$ is a y -direction power of an entire system.

21. (Currently Amended) An image observation optical system, comprising:
an image display element; and

an eyepiece optical system which introduces an image displayed by said image display element to a center of an eye of an observer without forming an intermediate image, so as to allow the observer to observe said image as a virtual image,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is constructed and arranged to bend an optical axis using reflecting surfaces so as to be compact, said optical axis lying in a plane,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is symmetrically formed with respect to said plane and includes an optical element having an entrance surface, a plurality of curved reflecting surfaces and an exit surface, at least one of said reflecting surfaces being provided with a volume hologram (HOE),

wherein said eyepiece optical system is configured as a prism optical system having at least two reflecting surfaces, said HOE has one or two plane of symmetry of power, and said plane of symmetry of said HOE coincides with a plane of symmetry of a shape of a base on which said HOE is provided, and

wherein said prism optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power and at least two HOEs between said image display element and an exit pupil, and, upon an image position F0 at a midpoint being defined on a segment that is an intersection displayed by said plane of symmetry of said eyepiece optical system and an image display surface, said image observation optical system satisfies the following condition:

$$[[\mid \phi_y(HOE, F0) / \phi_y(Total) \mid < 0.25]] \quad \underline{\mid \phi_y(HOE, F0) / \phi_y(Total) \mid \leq 0.25}$$

where $\phi_y(HOE, F0)$ is a y -direction power of said HOEs at the image position F0, and $\phi_y(Total)$ is a y -direction power of an entire system.

22. (Currently Amended) An image observation optical system, comprising:
an image display element; and
an eyepiece optical system which introduces an image displayed by said image display element to a center of an eye of an observer without forming an intermediate image, so as to allow the observer to observe said image as a virtual image,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is constructed and arranged to bend an optical axis using reflecting surfaces so as to be compact, said optical axis lying in a plane,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is symmetrically formed with respect to said plane and includes an optical element having an entrance surface, a plurality of curved reflecting surfaces and an exit surface, at least one of said reflecting surfaces being provided with a volume hologram (HOE),

wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power, and, upon an image position F0 at a midpoint, an image position Fb at one end point showing a larger chromatic aberration of magnification, and an image position Fa at another end point showing a smaller chromatic aberration of magnification being defined on a segment that is an intersection formed by said plane of symmetry of said eyepiece optical

system and an image display surface, said image observation optical system satisfies the following conditions simultaneously:

$$\begin{aligned}-1 < \phi_y(HOE, F_a)/\phi_y(\text{Total}) &< 2 \\ -1 < \phi_y(HOE, F_b)/\phi_y(\text{Total}) &< 1\end{aligned}$$

where $\phi_y(HOE, F_a)$ is a y -direction power of said HOE at the image position F_a , $\phi_y(HOE, F_b)$ is a y -direction power of said HOE at the image position F_b , and $\phi_y(\text{Total})$ is a y -direction power of an entire system,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is configured as a prism optical system having at least two reflecting surfaces, said HOE has one or two plane of symmetry of power, and said plane of symmetry of said HOE coincides with a plane of symmetry of a shape of a base on which said HOE is provided, and

wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises at least two HOEs between said image display element and an exit pupil, and said image observation optical system satisfies the following condition:

$$[[|\phi_y(HOE, F_0)/\phi_y(\text{Total})| < 0.25]]$$

$$|\phi_y(HOE, F_0)/\phi_y(\text{Total})| \leq 0.25$$

where $\phi_y(HOE, F_0)$ is a y -direction power of said HOEs at the image position F_0 , and $\phi_y(\text{Total})$ is a y -direction power of an entire system.

23. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 19, 20, 21 or 22, further satisfying the following condition:

$$|\phi_y(HOE, F_0)/\phi_y(\text{Total})| \leq 0.10.$$

24. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 23, further satisfying the following condition:

$$|\phi_y(HOE, F_0)/\phi_y(\text{Total})| \leq 0.025.$$

25. (Previously Presented) An image observation optical system according to claim 19, 20, 21 or 22, wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power, a HOE, and an optical member constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another.

26. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 25, wherein said optical member constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another is disposed between said image display element and said prism with a positive refracting power.

27. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 25, wherein said optical member constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another is disposed between a pupil of the observer and said prism with a positive refracting power.

28. (Previously Presented) An image observation optical system according to claim 19, 20, 21 or 22, wherein said HOE is covered with a dust shield member.

29. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 28, wherein said dust shield member comprises a case which accommodates said image observation optical system and a cover through which light emergent from said image observation optical system is transmitted.

30. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 25, wherein said optical member constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another acts also as a cover through which light emergent from said image observation optical system is transmitted.

31. (Original) An image observation optical system according to claim 25, wherein said HOE is applied to said optical member constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another.

32. (Previously Presented) An image observation optical system according to claim 19, 20, 21 or 22, wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power, a HOE, and two optical members each constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another, and said HOE is sandwiched between said two optical members each constructed with two opposite surfaces that are formed as plane surfaces non-parallel to one another.

33. (Previously Presented) A head-mount type image display apparatus comprising:

a main frame in which an image observation optical system is arranged, and;

a support member which is constructed to be mounted on lateral sides of a head of an observer so as to hold said main frame in front of a face of the observer;

wherein said image observation optical system comprises:

an image display element; and

an eyepiece optical system which introduces an image formed by said image display element to a center of an eye of the observer without forming an intermediate image, so as to allow the observer to observe said image as a virtual image,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is constructed and arranged to bend an optical axis using reflecting surfaces so as to be compact, said optical axis lying in a plane,

wherein said eyepiece optical system is symmetrically formed with respect to said plane and includes an optical element having an entrance surface, a plurality of curved reflecting surfaces and an exit surface, at least one of said reflecting surfaces being provided with a volume hologram (HOE),

wherein said eyepiece optical system comprises a prism with a positive refracting power, and, upon an image position F0 at a midpoint, an image position Fb at one end point showing a larger chromatic aberration of magnification, and an image position Fa at another end point showing a smaller chromatic aberration of magnification being defined on a segment that is an intersection formed by said plane of symmetry of said eyepiece optical system and an image display surface, said image observation optical system satisfies the following conditions simultaneously:

$$-1 < \phi_y(HOE, Fa)/\phi_y(\text{Total}) | < 2$$

$$-1 < \phi_y(HOE, Fb)/\phi_y(\text{Total}) | < 1$$

where $\phi_y(HOE, Fa)$ is a y-direction power of said HOE at the image position Fa, $\phi_y(HOE, Fb)$ is a y-direction power of said HOE at the image position Fb, and $\phi_y(\text{Total})$ is a y-direction power of an entire system, and

wherein said support member is constructed to achieve removable mount to side frames of spectacles.

35. (Original) A head-mount type image display apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said eyepiece optical system is configured as a prism optical system having at least two reflecting surfaces, said HOE has one or two plane of symmetry of power, and said plane of symmetry of said HOE coincides with a plane of symmetry of a shape of a base on which said HOE is provided.

Claim 36 (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A head-mount type image display apparatus according to claim 33 or 35, wherein said image observation optical system and an optical system for spectacles are integrally arranged in said main frame.

38. (Previously Presented) A head-mount type image display apparatus according to claim 33 or 35, wherein said support member is constructed to achieve removable mount to side frames of spectacles.

39. (Previously Presented) A head-mount type image display apparatus according to claim 33 or 35, wherein a pair of said image observation optical systems are arranged in parallel as left and right systems for providing binocular view.